

WORLD AFFAIRS

Fresh impetus on Europe
in Common Market

French President Francois Mitterrand has called for a fresh impetus on European integration. Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo favours an action programme.

His German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher advocates European Union Now, while the European Commission, headed by Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, has even advocated a new treaty to establish a European Union.

So Europe is back at the drawing board and the political debate among the Ten is in full swing again, with another fundamental issue having joined the crucial realignment of the Common Market's budget.

The French, Italian, German and European Commission proposals differ both in starting points and in objectives; they also differ in the points on which they are specific.

The new look at European integration was first advocated by Bonn's Herr Genscher, who has been canvassing support for European Union since the Free Democrats' 6 January Stuttgart meeting.

He has been lent most support by Signor Colombo and can now be confident the Benelux countries would join the bandwagon even though two of them are currently in the throes of a government crisis.

The response in Paris has been positive in principle, meaning for one that for national reasons France would prefer not to take the lead in any institutional development of the European Community.

It also means that M. Mitterrand's plans and those of his European Affairs Minister Andre Chateaubriand are slightly at odds with those espoused by the Germans.

The British for their part have, during Lord Carrington's tenure as chairman of the Council of Ministers, pursued a policy of practical improvements and extensions to EEC activities that has made substantial headway.

Common Market Foreign Ministers have agreed in London on the following points:

— to coordinate political security policies more closely in future, while continuing to exclude from the purview of this cooperation bona fide defence problems;

— to evolve a crisis mechanism based on the understanding that if three member-countries call for a special session either the Council of Ministers or the political affairs committee must be convened within 48 hours.

The intention here is to react swiftly and uniformly to occurrences such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as and when they happen.

— and to set up a working party to provide back-up for the chairman of the Council of Ministers. It is to consist of one representative each of the outgoing, current and forthcoming chairmen.

Bonn feels these resolutions are right but by no means enough, which is why Herr Genscher insists on his idea, scaled down though it may have been by his Cabinet, of a fully-fledged declaration of European principles.

Basically it would merely solemnise under the aegis of the European Council, or summit meeting of EEC leaders, the work of the Councils of Ministers

on the one hand and the process of European Political Cooperation (which is not based on the Treaty of Rome) on the other.

Informal fireside chats without a fixed agenda would then within a decade have emerged as the governing body of the European Community.

In practice this institutional reaffirmation would do little more than bear out the status quo, yet there could be no denying that it would be of enormous symbolic value.

There once was a time when EEC Foreign Ministers met in Copenhagen in the afternoon and in Brussels the same evening, the aim being to draw a clear distinction between the voluntary cooperation of EPC and the treaty commitments of the Council of Ministers.

But the Ministers have long abandoned this weird and wonderful means of emphasising the distinction.

Herr Genscher would like to expressly include in his declaration of principles security policy and cultural cooperation. He has also called for wider powers for the European Assembly, albeit within the scope outlined in the Treaty of Rome.

Once every six months the chairman of the Council of Ministers is to answer questions put to him by members of the European Assembly.

Resolutions tabled by the Strasbourg European Parliament must likewise be answered and ought not, Bonn's Foreign Minister feels, to be ignored.

The Italians are largely in agreement with Herr Genscher's views, but Rome would like to go even further. Signor Colombo has visions of an economic policy chapter.

On economic policy he envisages what would amount to an action programme and go far beyond mere declarations of principle.

Bonn has nothing to say on this part of the Italian proposals, whereas M. Mitterrand is keenly interested. Joint moves against unemployment form the nucleus of the French leader's programme for Europe.

He has plans for a new social sector and for a Europe of working people, a Europe for employees rather than for

employers, a concept much vaunted by the Socialists.

The French aide-memoire dispenses entirely with institutional development of the EEC and calls instead for a European social budget, or joint employment programme.

This promptly confronts the Ten with France's new economic policy, which is way out of tune with the rebuff given in Bonn to a major programme of job creation.

It is also a far cry from the economic policy pursued by Mrs Thatcher in Whitehall, so it requires little imagination to appreciate that growing disparity in economic policy could well prove a fresh divisive force within the EEC.

The latest plans are the handiwork of the European Commission in Brussels. They have more in common with the institutional changes envisaged by Bonn.

The Commission's proposals, drafted under the aegis of Dutch EEC Commissioner Frans Andriessen and presented to the European Assembly by M. Thorn, include as a key feature abolition of the right of veto in the Council of Ministers.

The Commission calls for majority decisions by the Council, which would be no more than the provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

It would also like to see the European Assembly given greater influence in the legislative sector and laudably its own loss of power.

The Council of Ministers, the Commission complains, has emerged as the sole genuine centre of power. It calls for a return to the balance of power that prevailed in years gone by.

This criticism has been greeted with mixed feelings by Euro-MPs. They, in common with the Commission, welcome the Genscher Plan because it promises to get Europe back on the move.

But they are worried it might result in a lopsided increase in powers exercised at intergovernmental level.

"There is much to be said for formalising established practice that has yet to be given the status of a treaty provision," says German Euro-MP Klaus Hansch.

Fair play

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policy resolution backed in the Bonn Bundestag by the CDU/CSU Opposition.

The Opposition resolution had naturally been outvoted by the ruling coalition but, apart from the odd tactical point, was intended to endorse the Chancellor's security policy and back it in view of criticism from within the coalition parties.

There can be no doubt that the missile modernisation, arms control and alliance policies outlined in Washington by Helmut Kohl would have been advocated by Helmut Schmidt too.

Herr Kohl kept to within the confines laid down by Bonn coalition visitors to Washington before him. He echoed the applause Christian Democrats had given the Chancellor in the Bundestag.

He also reminded the Americans, gently but definitely, that they, the British and the French are committed not to losing sight of the aim of reunifying Germany in peace and freedom.

This reminder may have surprised his hosts inasmuch as the Americans currently face more pressing problems in view of the many upsets in world affairs.

But it was by no means out of place. Given Mr Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to Bonn it was by no means inappropriate since the Soviet leader might well come up with a tempting proposal.

Were he to do so he would be fanning the flames of the very nationalist trends that are noted so carefully in the White House.

Helmut Kohl ensured in Washington that the US government would not be surprised if the Soviet Union were to make some such bid in Bonn.

Helmut Schmidt could not have done this job better. (Nordwest Zeitung, 17 October 1981)

"But when it comes to wider plans for the European Assembly the proposals are far too perfunctory."

Herr Hansch is a Social Democrat. The Christian Democratic and Liberal leaders in the European Parliament along similar lines.

It remains to be seen how the European plans will be reconciled in weeks ahead, but a date on which a formal declaration might well be claimed readily comes to mind.

It is 25 March 1982, which will be the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome setting up the Common Market in 1957.

(Die Welt, 20 October 1981)

Fine words

Continued from page 1

tions and results, as delegations have already indicated by deliberately setting down expectations.

Maybe they did so in order not to have to talk afterwards in terms of failure. The success was certainly more atmospheric than quantifiable.

It was an improvement in the climate of opinion prevailing between the two superpowers. The conference chairman, President Lopez Portillo of Mexico and Minister Trudeau of Canada, referred to the Spirit of Cancun.

There was a specific result to go with this reference to the spirits. Global negotiations under UN auspices, which had been shelved for over a year, were to get under way at last.

All aspects of North-South relations were to be covered. They include trade, development, monetary and financial relations, energy and commodities. Findings are to lead to an action programme.

The go-ahead for global talks was the result of agreement by the United States and the Soviet Union. And it took grammatical sleight-of-hand to persuade the Americans.

With a modicum of exaggeration, limited success of Cancun could thus be said to have been the decision, at conference table, to enter into fresh negotiations.

The decision to go ahead with global talks, even though it was not taken until the last minute, justified having such an ambitious summit.

It can hardly be said to have been a failure when politicians so far apart as each other over the heads of diplomats so that they could come to an understanding about their day-to-day business.

Mr Haig said the summit had been an extraordinary success. Mrs Gandhi, given to speaking on the Third World's behalf, said it had been a step forward.

Action must nonetheless follow. Fine words in which the final commitment is couched. Action alone will quorate the hardship suffered in the Third and Fourth World. Wolfgang (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 October 1981)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reincke, Editor-in-Chief: Heinz Editor: Alexander Anthony, English sub-editor: Simon Burrell - telephone 04103-60000, Georgine Plohn.

Friedrich Reincke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schwanenweg, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 55 11. Telex: 62-1435.

Advertising rates list No. 13. Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagsgesellschaft Friedrich Reincke, Braunschweig. Distributed in the USA by MAILING, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York 10011.

Reagan's nuclear war in Europe misquote
corroborates Euromissile case

opinion, upset by the Nato security policy debate, was upset by an off-the-cuff remark Reagan.

Reagan told a Washington reporter that the superpowers necessarily engaged each other's territory.

MP Herr Scheer (SPD) said Reagan had abandoned the entire doctrine while Dieter Lattmann up his shock in the terse "He just cannot mean it!"

He wasted no time in clarifying the saying the press had taken Reagan out of context. It said Mr Reagan had mentioned Europe when he spoke of the possibility of a limited war.

He can only have meant Europe and said that he could imagine an attack by nuclear fire with tactical weapons directed against troops in the Soviet Union. It was the doctrine of absolute deterrence.

But this concept lost in credibility as the Soviet Union built up its nuclear arsenal to the point where it could respond to any American nuclear strike. Ever since, Nato strategy has been that of a flexible response.

This strategy is based on the assumption that Nato must have the capability of responding to an attack with the same weapons the aggressor uses and of stepping up this response to the point where it includes nuclear warheads if necessary.

This means keeping military conflicts as limited as possible while at the same time deterring an aggressor by the threat of stepping up response to the level of intercontinental nuclear war.

One of the drawbacks in this strategy has been its ambivalence from the very beginning. It is based on the deterrent by which any potential aggressor is

Gerd Schmückle was deputy commander of Nato forces in Europe until his retirement in March 1981.

Kissinger once told me in the 1950s that the way many Europeans imagined a war was that American Russians would shoot nuclear weapons at each other over the heads of diplomats so that they could come to an understanding about their day-to-day business.

anybody nurturing such ill-considered ideas must be disappointed by President Reagan's recent remarks. It so happens that Europe's geostrategic position is more favourable than that of America.

being so, it was helpful that President Reagan reminded the Europeans that it is impossible to preserve peace without running a risk.

Whether there could be such a limited exchange of nuclear weapons between America and the Soviet Union or whether such an exchange automatically escalates into a all-out nuclear war, the President answered quite rightly that he did not know.

Nothing is certain and nothing is granted in war. As a result, the very element of uncertainty is a fundamental aspect of strategy. What weapons Nato develops in any given situation will depend on the aggressor, his aims, his successes, and a number of other circumstances.

And the Soviets (though I don't anticipate this) would naturally be more threatened by an attack by the further he advances

ed this response by the Europeans and he would certainly have made the Nato security policy debate easier had he phrased his answer at a news conference differently.

But a closer examination of what the President actually said makes the European outcry rather surprising. After all, he only reaffirmed Nato's defence strategy since the mid-1960s when the massive retaliation strategy was abandoned.

The concept at that time was that an attack by Moscow would instantly trigger a massive use of nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union. It was the doctrine of absolute deterrence.

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made to understand that a conflict, once started, would get out of his control and possibly lead to a global nuclear holocaust.

By the same token, Nato forces must be in a position to contain a conflict and prevent it from developing into a general nuclear war. And this means restricting a European conflict to Europe for as long as possible.

Naturally, nobody knows how rapidly such a conflict could intensify to the point where the use of nuclear weapons in general and ICBMs in particular would have to be considered. This uncertainty forms part of the deterrent.

There can be no doubt that the flexible response strategy rests on the assumption that the initial use of tactical nuclear weapons will not automatically trigger a process that will lay the whole world in ruins.

The Europeans must therefore ask themselves whether they actually consider this desirable or whether they should demand that, following the first nuclear weapons fired in Europe, any attempt at a political or military solution below the threshold of an all-out atom war should be unthinkable.

The real question of a European nuclear war is whether one could imagine a war started in Europe being restricted to the continent at a risk that is fairly calculable.

The trouble is that peace would then become uncertain because one of the superpowers could start such a conflict,

America shares the burden
of 'flexible response'

Yet the Americans have borne a major risk since the end of World War II on Western Europe's behalf. And they did not do so because they were naive, but to protect their own interests. It is for that reason that they have stationed a whole army corps in Europe.

Even so, the Europeans have been troubled time and again by whether America would follow through with the risk it has taken upon itself should it come to the crunch.

It was this that prompted Britain and France to develop and preserve their nuclear striking power.

It was this that prompted the establishment of a nuclear planning staff at Nato on which the Europeans and the Americans draft nuclear policy.

When President Reagan said that he could imagine an exchange of tactical nuclear fire against troops in the field without either of the two superpowers having to press the button that will launch ICBMs, he only described what has been common Nato strategy for some time: the flexible response concept.

This provides for any attack to be halted with the least loss of territory and using the lowest range of available weapons. The idea is to drive home to an aggressor that the further he advances

believing that it would not itself be affected by it.

But exactly this is the incalculable element. And it is this that President Reagan did not say.

What he did say was that he did not believe that a nuclear war could be won at all.

Those who fear that the USA could start or accept a European war should ask themselves what the superpowers, and America in particular, would stand to gain from it.

A Europe destroyed would be of little use to anybody and would hardly be worth sacrificing the whole of the American army corps now stationed in Europe. Any careful pondering of Mr Reagan's unfortunate remark also makes it clear where the danger of a limited conflict could lie.

It would lie in the fact that in a war that would destroy Europe and not the Soviet Union the superpowers could theoretically decide to end the conflict before it had spread to their own territories because any limitation of a conflict became impossible once one of the superpowers came under direct attack.

This means that Mr Reagan's policy of stationing Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe (targeted on the Soviet Union) should arms control talks fail is not aimed at containing a conflict.

The Nato decision to station these missiles in Europe is intended to make it clear that conflicts cannot be easily contained and that they could well escalate to the point where they involve the superpowers' territories.

Mr Reagan's policy therefore rebuts the suspicion that he wants to spare America a nuclear risk at Europe's expense.

No superpower that attacks the other superpower, regardless where the attack is launched from, can restrict the conflict to Europe. Thomas Löffelholz (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 October 1981)

They say that the new Euromissiles to be stationed in Western Europe will not be deployed to strengthen the deterrent and contain a potential conflict but for the sole purpose of restricting a war to the European continent. But this contention is completely at odds with the Nato concept.

Instead, the Eurostrategic nuclear programmes remain part of global American programmes as borne out by the fact that the bolstering of Western defences is to remain below the Soviet Union's Eurostrategic potential in numerical terms.

Nato planners have never intended to develop an independent Eurostrategic nuclear potential, which could in fact create the impression that the Americans wanted to uncouple themselves from Europe.

President Reagan stressed that Soviet military manuals pointed to the fact that the Kremlin believed it could win a nuclear war. That is correct. It is also correct that the Warsaw Pact's military brass thinks along these lines and has written this into the manual.

But I myself believe that Soviet politicians are less and less inclined to think in such categories. They have come to understand Nato's strategy.

As a result, it is quite possible that the strategies of both alliances will become firmly implanted in the minds of Soviet politicians to start with and, later, in those of the military.

If this were actually to come about it would serve as an important precondition for arms control in both pacts.

Gerd Schmückle (Die Welt, 21 October 1981)

In a sudden about-face, Bonn has now given its blessing to the steel industry's postponing intended price increases.

Instead of raising the per ton price by DM140 as of 1 January 1982, the price increases will amount to DM100 per ton and will not become effective until 1 July.

This has put an end — at least for the time being — to the dispute between the steel producers and their customers, the steel processors.

But then, the dispute seemed to be over once before when the steel mills and the Federation of the Iron and Steel Processing Industry (AVI) agreed on postponing by one month a price increase of DM50 per ton that should have come into effect on 1 October.

Yet even before the new prices had come into effect the steel producers, who are part of the Eurofer cartel, unanimously decided on 17 September to increase their prices again as of January 1982. A cartel spokesman said that the prices would remain in effect for the whole first six months of 1982 and that Eurofer members were determined to take all necessary steps to ensure that the new prices are applied by all.

German steel mills were sure of Bonn backing in this move. After all, they had only just been criticised by the Chancellor and the Economic Affairs Minister for having postponed their price hike from October to November.

This might seem unique, especially in view of the fact that it was usually Bonn that opposed price increases — so much so that back in 1957 Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard summoned Germany's steel executives to Bonn and put them on the carpet for intended price hikes. The state-owned Salzgitter concern was put under pressure not to go along with higher prices.

The fact that Bonn now reacted in exactly the opposite way is easily explained. In view of the financial straits in which the steel industry finds itself, there is every likelihood that it might become a burden on the state.

Only if profits are made will Bonn not have to subsidise the steel industry on a grand scale, as other European governments do.

The subsidies would be necessary if jobs were to be preserved in regions that are economically weak anyway. It was this consideration that prompted Bonn to welcome the price hikes.

The steel processors refused to be intimidated by Bonn's backing for the steel mills.

Though the ten steel processors' associations that make up the AVI are dominated by large firms, smaller member-companies are bound to rally around the Federation when the need arises.

Though Bonn might be reluctant to take the word of such major steel processors as Volkswagen, Daimler-Benz, MAN and Siemens, it is likely to listen to the arguments of medium-sized companies who say that the extent and the quick sequence of price increases endanger their competitiveness.

Says one steel magnate ironically: "The argument that the medium-sized companies are in their death throes has not failed to impress us either."

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff offered to mediate in the dispute and a few days ago he met the steel executives and a delegation of processors headed by VW's Horst Münzner, listening to the arguments of both sides.

The Minister then suggested that the opposing parties sit down at the bargaining table and talk it out. So the poker

■ INDUSTRY

Steel price rise will be smaller and later

game continued. The steel makers offered to freeze the prices that were to come into effect on 1 January for a full year rather than for six months as originally planned.

But the AVI refused to go along. It was finally agreed to take out three days to think the matter over. At the end of that period the steel makers presented their offer: list prices for rolled steel to go up, as originally announced, by DM140 per ton as of 1 January 1982.

To make it easier for the processors, who face tough competition from abroad, to adjust to the new prices, the steel makers will grant them a temporary discount of DM40 per ton for the first quarter of 1982.

The discount is to be reduced to DM20 per ton for the second quarter, and the full price increase of DM140 per ton is to be paid on shipments after 1 July 1982.

Steel makers promised to hold their prices until at least 1 October 1982, provided nothing unexpected increased their own production costs.

This temporary discount is a bitter pill for the steel makers to swallow. Taking into account that they sell about 13 million tons of rolled steel a month domestically and in the other EEC countries (which also benefit from the discount), their earnings in the first quarter will show a monthly shortfall of about DM52m in the first quarter and of DM26m a month in the second quarter — a total of DM234m. This would be a whacking amount even for a booming branch of industry.

But it is doubtful whether the steel manufacturers would really have been able to come up with these additional

earnings had they stuck to their original price increases.

Though their competitors in Europe promised to stick by the new prices, the EEC is not the only steel producer.

The market is flooded by steel makers from many countries who are already formidable competitors abroad and who have ensured that German exporters earn less on foreign markets than they do at home.

Any price increase in Germany therefore makes the German market more attractive to them. Thyssen's Heinz Kriwet therefore sees steel imports at higher price levels as a latent danger in 1982.

Though Germany must import some of its steel for reasons of quality and because foreign companies produce certain types of steel that are unavailable here, every imported ton is a painful business.

The steel processors are naturally aware of this and are using the threat of imports as a trump card.

The steel industry has noted with considerable relief that the AVI intends to remain faithful rather than look abroad for suppliers.

One spokesman for the steel makers: "The German steel industry continues to attach great importance to its cooperation with the AVI so that it can continue to supply the processors to the advantage of all concerned."

Decoded, this means: the steel industry hopes that the processors will not increase the quota of imported steel.

Naturally, the AVI cannot guarantee this because it is only a loose association and, as its manager, Günter Schmidt, puts it: "We're not even a registered club." But the steel makers would be satisfied if the AVI were to issue a rec-

ommendation to that effect to its members. As one steel executive put it: "Our past experience with such recommendations has been good."

But the same executive also knows that a war with the AVI is not impossible: "All you need is for two or three of the big users to gang together and on one steel producer to be left out of the cold."

The steel processors appreciate the fact that the steel prices in the past years were reasonable, but they are angered at the extent and quick sequence of increases now.

They are also miffed about the fact that the steel industry, backed by man and European authorities, succeeded in forming a cartel while German anti-trust authorities keep a close watch on any mergers in the steel processing industry.

The steel makers themselves say that the quick succession of price increases is deplorable. But they also hold that it is to be reported weak links in Germany's organisation. "It pays," he says, "to mean it pays him personally."

And his colleagues are not the only workers who are also factory owners, and not just because the owner decided it was time his share in the company.

In any event, by sticking to the original list prices (the prices have not been lowered; only a discount on the increased prices has been granted) the end half of next year should permit industry to break even.

And so it must if the state is to live up with guarantees as Krupp is trying to induce it to do.

To enable Krupp Stahl AG to proceed with planned investments on schedule, it has asked the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to guarantee credits to the tune of DM260m.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer

(Die Zeit, 9 October 1981)

Hoesch, Krupp wait for welder's torch

ations and expand those sectors where they hope to find a ready market.

The fact that both companies would like to introduce the same type of specialised steel producing equipment is only superficially a point of friction.

Whether the theoreticians like it or not, German steel only has a future if the mammoths continue to merge and if they create cartels that can weather any competition.

The wedding that is likely to take place will not be of the kind where both partners endow it with all their possessions.

The only feasible merger is one in which steel production and parts of the steel processing sectors are combined. And this can only be achieved by sharing burdens and advantages.

This is one of the main difficulties in the rehabilitation process because neither Hoesch nor Krupp can cope with additional burdens without being unbundled elsewhere.

The fact that Krupp recently asked the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to guarantee loans to the tune of DM260m shows what its financial position is. This makes it obvious that there will be some

tough bargaining when it comes to arranging the distribution of burdens and advantages in case of a merger.

Should the project materialise Hoesch's Karsten Rohwedder is likely to be hailed as the master rehabilitator. And there is no underestimating the fact that Rohwedder who resisted the demand for "a steel plant now" because this development was not only due to rehabilitation on the part of the Dutch companies, which was to provide the steel, to breed competitors within its own ranks, but also to the better-known models of stiff

and Krupp provide for layoffs of a total of 11,000 staff members.

Dortmund Bundestag MP Hans Ullrich even goes so far as to speak of 40,000 redundancies in the steel industry over the next four years (on a nationwide scale).

The okay of works councils and unions for these job-destroying rationalisation measures was made contingent on the commitment of politicians to making an all-out effort to create replacement jobs.

As in the case of individual companies, a national solution of the crisis is impossible without government assistance.

But it is more than doubtful whether the investment subsidies agreed to by Bonn and Düsseldorf so far will be enough. Even Jochimsen doubts that

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BUSINESS

Co-operatives: when the staff foots the bill to bail out the firm

hand, Wilhelm Deckel no longer feels he is just an employee.

His workmates have invested in the company, a Bad Berka machine manufacturer, to keep it afloat and on a sound economic

not just staff but also, to a certain extent, the management, or at least some of its firm.

Setting up a staff-owned company is difficult for legal reasons even when the staff are willing to provide the capital investment needed to float the new company.

The chief problem is that new companies can often not take over their predecessors' means of production because debtors have first claim on them.

Forging links with the authorities, with fresh sources of cash and with employers' associations proves hard work.

"Whoever would want to have anything to do with such an uncommon category of company as the staff-owned firm?" a manager of one such company

sadly asks.

Another managing director says that his toughest problem is that of finding suitable management personnel.

Works councils, on the other hand, are usually more than willing to back the new idea. Their jobs too are at stake, of course.

The trade unions likewise lend a hand now and again, although in principle they are unenthusiastic about employees who are their own employers.

But in such cases the first consideration is to save jobs that are in jeopardy. So in one instance a staff-owned company reached unofficial agreement with the works council and the unions that there would be no strikes at the new company for years to come.

In return the company undertook not to sack existing staff as part of rationalisation schemes.

It was unable to keep to its side of the bargain, as it turned out, because that would have called the rescue bid into question and jeopardised the capital raised by the staff.

Lip, the French watch and clock manufacturers, are probably the best-known example of a company taken over by its staff.

The Besancon company ran into financial difficulties in 1973 and the factory was taken over by the staff, who were given coverage and sympathy both at home and abroad.

Lip have had trouble since, including

way that frequently came to ask the staff to lend financial support in a situation where they were reluctant to shoulder the

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Few if any of them feel any inclination to have their say in how the company is run or to play at being boss.

Many worker-shareholders would prefer to retain the hierarchical structures to which they are accustomed. They want to carry on being able to look to a boss who tells them what to do.

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and Krupp provide for layoffs of a total of 11,000 staff members.

Dortmund Bundestag MP Hans Ullrich even goes so far as to speak of 40,000 redundancies in the steel industry over the next four years (on a nationwide scale).

The okay of works councils and unions for these job-destroying rationalisation measures was made contingent on the commitment of politicians to making an all-out effort to create replacement jobs.

As in the case of individual companies, a national solution of the crisis is impossible without government assistance.

But it is more than doubtful whether the investment subsidies agreed to by Bonn and Düsseldorf so far will be enough. Even Jochimsen doubts that

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a second bankruptcy, but things are now looking up. The former watch factory has been converted into an assembly works run as a workers' cooperative with the aid of government loans.

Staff take-overs in the Federal Republic of Germany, unlike the Lip saga, have not been accompanied by street fighting, and usually cash has not been supplied by the government either.

Walther Electronics in Gerstetten, for instance, bought for DM6.5m the facilities of the original office machinery company that went bankrupt in 1974.

The new company has DM5m in capital, initially including DM34m in redundancy money held in trust for 1200 members of staff of the old company.

The remainder was raised, the present company says, by a number of computer specialists. The staff still hold a DM2.7m stake in the company.

Plassener Textil AG are another company that only survived with the aid of capital invested by company staff, having been reborn out of the ruins of Hanfwerke Füssen-Immenstadt AG.

The original company was part of the Glogger textiles group, which used to be the largest in Germany. The Füssen works was the parent unit of Hans Glogger's operations.

Glogger went to the wall in 1976, leaving about 900 jobs threatened by redundancy in Füssen.

An interim company was set up to salvage part of the operations and on 1 January 1979 the staff took over a near-majority shareholding in their firm.

The staff's percentage of the DM9.4m in capital was 47, with 32 per cent being held by the local savings bank and the remainder by customers and suppliers.

There was also a DM2.3m government grant and DM800,000 from the Federal Labour Office.

As a result 550 jobs were saved, and 300 members of staff are now shareholders in the company, which is stock market-listed.

One of the oldest staff-owned companies is Glashütte Süssmuth, a glassworks in Immenhausen, near Kassel.

Ten years ago Richard Süssmuth, the owner, was deep in debt. Reluctant to abandon to its fate a company that had been his life's work, he made it over to his staff, numbering 250.

The works was then given nicknames suggesting it was Communist-run or run

They have already been keeping the ailing steel industry going.

To make matters worse, the banks are involved in an extensive rehabilitation programme for AEG. With uncertain prospects of success, the patient's fever is rising steadily while huge amounts of money are tied up in the rehabilitation programme. And the steel giants would have to have at least the same amount in bank loans.

Since bankers are not only discreet but usually also cautious, the steel crisis will not be preceded by any fanfare. The banks want to make sure that their "match-making" activities do not turn out to be a waste of time.

Dieter Löwe

(Deutscher Arbeiterkampf, Bonn, 18 October 1981)

Even more important than this complicated political approach to the problem is the attitude the banks will adopt.

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along socialist lines. But the staff were unperturbed by such insinuations.

After many trials and tribulations the glassworks was converted into a staff-owned foundation at the beginning of 1977, with the foundation holding the company's DM180,000 in capital.

Two years later the staff agreed to allow a partner to invest in the company, Neugaus Verwaltungs-GmbH of Bochum thereupon took over a half-share in the glassworks for DM250,000.

The Bochum company runs the business operations left behind by hydraulics specialist Rexroth, an owner who had introduced many social innovations in his company.

Emag, a mechanical engineering company in Salach, has made fewer headlines than either Glogger or Süssmuth.

Emag, a medium-sized company with a payroll of 160, ran into trouble after growing too fast and having to invest too heavily in a new line.

In 1975 ninety members of the staff set up a new company alongside four sales representatives and two suppliers as shareholders.

One reason why so little is known about the progress of staff-owned companies is that many are family firms and both old-fashioned and unaccustomed to publicity.

Their corporate successors are similarly reluctant to allow outsiders to see how they are faring under new management.

Thus little is known about Matriel, an engineering firm in Austria, or Tübingen Chronik, the printers of *Schwabacher Tagblatt*.

Alfred Teufel, the Nagold manufacturer of ventilation and refrigeration equipment, is known only to have made a gift of the firm to 50 of his faithful members of staff at the beginning of 1976.

Many staff-owned firms have quietly been reconverted into conventional companies. In 1975 about 60 employees of Bössler Metallbau in Bösel, near Cloppenburg, set up a company to take over the firm, which had gone bankrupt.

The new company lasted only three years under staff ownership. Then it was taken over by what the firm calls a conventional entrepreneur, a Krefeld family.

The main reason is usually that staff cannot raise enough capital to keep the company going satisfactorily in the long run.

Yet they have still managed, by investing their savings, to bail the company out of financial difficulties and keep it and their jobs going.

Not all staff-owned companies succeed. Beku Beton- und Kunststeinwerk in Thüngenheim is a case in point.

The company went bankrupt in 1971 and was to have been salvaged by a staff company backed by such well-known names as Hanns-Hainz Forst, the photographic goods magnate, Klaus Hoppmann, the Stiegen Opel main dealer, and the Carl Backhaus Foundation.

But the rescue bid failed. Five years later the company was liquidated once and for all. It had been launched with too little capital and had made management misjudgements.

Another failure has even featured in a book, *Der Fall B.* (The B. Affair), which describes the decline and fall of Bammesberger Maschinenfabrik in Leornberg.

The company had to call in the receiver in 1975 when the state government in Stuttgart failed to provide a loan facility even though the staff had raised DM2.1m to keep the firm going.

The hapless payroll had not been told that the company was 10 times deeper in debt.

Viktor Paul

(Die Zeit, 9 October 1981)

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■ TECHNOLOGY

Electronic data processors head office equipment boom

Electronic data processing equipment is leading an almost unprecedented boom in the office equipment industry despite the general slump.

Production figures in 1980 were up 16 per cent over 1979, and the trend this year is similar.

Only about 20 per cent of the increased business is because of conventional office equipment.

The demand reflects the transition from a production to an information society.

Almost half Germany's labour force works in offices. No other place of work has been changing as fast.

New technologies and work processes, new equipment and safety regulations are endless.

An office equipment show, *Büro-data Berlin 81*, shows just what changes there have been.

The organisers, the Work Group for Office Equipment and Information Technology of the Federation of Iron, Machinery and Apparatus Construction (WEMA) and the Association of the Office Equipment and Furniture Trade, hold the show every two years.

Even a cursory stroll through the exhibition halls shows the enormous progress in the field of micro-processors, micro-computers and office technology in general.

There is hardly a single item that has



not come up with improved handling and operation.

The micro-processor itself is no more than a bare calculator. It turns into a micro-computer by equipping it with such input devices as keyboards and output devices such as terminals in the form of screens.

The classical typewriter now presents itself minus its keyboard.

Named printer, it is now an output device. The dividing line between calculating and writing has also been done away with.

Word processors, says Professor Klaus-Rüdiger Fellbaum of Berlin, must be seen as a type of data processing since correction, insertion and storage operations are comparable to arithmetic and other data processing operations.

The individual exhibits in Berlin still centre around word, figure and data processing plus office furniture and stationery; but there is no clear dividing line.

Many micro-computers now have editor programmes that turn them into incredibly easily-operated typewriters.

The written text first appears on a

monitor screen where typing errors can be corrected, missing words inserted and superfluous ones deleted. The whole thing is termed "word processing."

More sophisticated editor programmes enable the operator to rearrange segments of texts or to combine stored text segments to form a complete letter. This is best described as "module texts."

Another memory bank provides the needed addresses. The completed letter can then be written by the printing device that is hooked up to the installation.

The micro-computer can write the same letter to all desired recipients.

The Federal postal authority is about to start its Teletex service. The cables for this service will be hooked up to the telephone network. Practical tests are already in progress, and here is how the system will operate:

Once a letter has been put together with the help of a micro-processor, the sender simply dials the telephone number of the recipient and pushes the transmit button. The dialled number and the text of the letter are fed into an electronic device which keeps dialling the receiver's number until there is a reply.

The text is then transmitted at the rate of 300 letters per second, approximately 40 times the speed of today's telex machines which, incidentally, have

Robots before breakfast... a peep into the future

Will the year 2000 see us waking up to a friendly robot voice rather than the shrill ringing of the alarm clock? And will we be able to turn on the shower by simply saying: "Shower... 35 degrees?" without bothering to as much as touch the taps?

This is the sort of scenario which Helmut Mangold of the AEG-Telefunken Research Institute envisages.

He told a press meeting organised by his company in Ulm about typewriters that will take down dictation without anybody touching the keyboard and traffic guidance systems that feed the driver vocal information about the best and shortest route to his destination in a clearly intelligible language.

And naturally, instructions to computers will be given by casual speech rather than by hitting a keyboard.

Even those without programming experience will be able to tell the computer what they expect of it and receive the reply verbally, confirmed in writing if so desired.

There is nothing utopian about such ideas. We already have pocket computers that can translate foreign language, pronouncing them correctly.

A German mail order company handles bulk orders by a computer that responds by speech and confirms the orders or tells the operator that they cannot be executed for one reason or another.

When its task is finished, the computer politely says: "Thank you and bye-bye."

A computer named "Karlchen" has been doing a yeoman's job for the German Railway System for the past two years. Karlchen is the world's most sophisticated timetable information system. All the traveller has to do is tell

the computer his destination, whereupon Karlchen will answer him, giving him the quickest and best connections.

All this marks only the beginning of a world-wide development in the course of which machines are being developed that understand human speech and respond in it.

In this country, it is the telecommunications department of the German Postal Service that is progressing in great strides towards speaking computers. Similar work is in progress at AEG-Telefunken research facilities.

The research work now concentrates on two major aspects:

- Man-computer communication through the spoken word could break down the barrier between man and machine. No specialised knowledge is needed to make full use of such speaking computers.

- Society, with its growing information starvation, is finding it increasingly difficult (for reasons of personnel and cost) to provide reliable information in all fields, no matter how specialised.

A telling example of this information bottleneck is the constant engaged signal of the telephone information service in this country.

Existing facilities — and this includes the speaking pocket computer and Karlchen — are inadequate in doing justice to the task.

These devices are still unable to respond to any voice. Instead, they usually respond only to the voice they are speci-

fically geared to and their vocabulary is still limited.

When they do speak, they use the sounds taken from, say, a newscaster and stored in the computer's memory bank. In other words: sounds, syllables or words that can best be described as a semi-synthetic language.

It is here, however, Helmut Mangold told the newsmen, that a significant breakthrough has been achieved.

David Stall, an American mathematician, then demonstrated to the press his recently completed fully synthesised speaking computer, a device about the size of a video recorder.

The computer, which goes under the name of SPRAUS-VS, is operated by a normal terminal with keyboard and gives its answers via a loudspeaker with human-sounding speech.

The important element of SPRAUS-VS, Stall told the newsmen, lies in the fact that the speech no longer consists of processed elements of the human voice but is an electronic imitation of the frequency range of speech. This enables the speaking device to articulate any German-language word whatsoever.

The quality of any fully synthesised speaking device largely depends on the perfection with which it electronically imitates the medley of frequencies created by the various inflections of the human voice, especially the transitional sounds.

the disadvantage of a limited number of symbols and letters.

The Teletex service, on the other hand, will not only contain all characters and symbols of a normal typewriter but a wide range of additional symbols well.

The receiver learns from his processor controlled computer that is a letter for him. As soon as time to deal with it he has the letter flashed onto a monitor.

This comes very close to an without paper — especially in the fact that the micro-processor also handle complete card indexes and archives.

Naturally, among the exhibits at the Berlin show there also the machines of Chambers of Commerce and

processing machines, typewriters and other office equipment. But they triggered a feeling of nostalgia in classical offices, although they still have their place in the new generation of offices.

On show were also pocket computers that can be programmed in four manufacturers with programme into the office computer.

It was no coincidence that the processing giant IBM for the first time presented a micro-computer at the Berlin show. After all, the smaller the computer the wider the range of potential customers.

A micro-computer that can be hooked up to the colour TV set at home had for less than DM400. Though the device was not shown in Berlin, it offers many opportunities, buying small quantities for among the business community.

Walter... (Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 October 1981)

It is these sounds that make any attempt at creating synthetic speech since long before the Club of

After all, when speaking we pronounce individual letters separately as for instance in the word "donut" but as a flowing sound.

To complicate matters further, additional sounds differ depending on which vowels and consonants follow each other. Moreover, the volume and speed of speech also play a role.

The automatic recognition of speech is plagued by the same problems as the synthesis. Here, too, a wide range of speech frequencies provides the possibility of electronically decoding words and, ultimately, complete sentences.

The trouble is that the vast vocabulary of a language provides an astronomical number of varieties.

Still the Acoustic Data Memory (or ADES for short) that Ziehlinski presented at the Ulm conference is capable of recognising individually spoken letters of the alphabet, figures, symbols and a number of commands and responding to them.

Unfortunately, this robot responds only to his master's voice, in this case Ziehlinski.

Newsmen who tried to fool ADES by speaking some letters or figures into microphones were mostly out of luck.

Only when the voice and dictation resembled that of Ziehlinski did the robot respond correctly.

Naturally, the robot can be programmed to respond to any given word. All it needs is specimens of the speech and vocabulary.

Dieter... (Der Tagesspiegel, 17 October 1981)

ENVIRONMENT
Recycling:
it pays to
advertise

DIE WELT

For the past seven years the waste exchange run by the Standing Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT) has handled nearly 5,000 offers and more than 5,600 requests for waste suitable for recycling. In 1980 there have been 39,000 enquiries in the "wanted" and "on offer" sections of the chamber magazines, all from companies keen to buy or sell waste.

Last year showed that more than one in four manufacturers with programme into the office computer offer more than one "wanted" advertisement in three came up with the required.

Wolff von Amerongen, president of DIHT, feels it to be particularly important that the exchange scheme has many companies swapping their waste regularly with others in exchange for products they can put to use.

DIHT scheme also provides for a manufacturer or processor. DIHT is free of charge of offers and is relayed by chambers of commerce and industry in Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France.

Wolff von Amerongen, and has since long before the Club of popularised the idea some years ago. Recycling in Germany dates back to the century when the Sicilian melting process came into use. Waste metal alone the DIHT ex-

change has handled 2,200 offers and 1,200 enquiries, to which 4,000 replies were received.

An estimated 700,000 tonnes of tin plate a year go into domestic dustbins. Only a third or so is recycled, but the quantity reclaimed is increasing fast.

In 1976/77, says Wolff von Amerongen, "roughly 100,000 tonnes of tin plate were recycled. By 1980 the figure had increased to 200,000 tonnes."

Between 1974 and 1980 the quantity of glass similarly reclaimed increased from 150,000 to 492,000 tonnes.

Over the past 30 years the proportion of waste paper reused in paper and board manufacture has increased from 30 to over 42 per cent.

In 1950 the figure was 414,000 tonnes of waste paper. Last year the quantity recycled amounted to 2.3 million tonnes.

In the chemical industry recycling is virtually part of the manufacturing process. The processing of solvents and used oil are but two instances.

Last year more than 300,000 tonnes of plastic were recycled. Reclaimed granules of plastic can be reused in full, the DIHT says.

Yet in many cases plastic waste for various court rulings on compact storage of spent fuel rods in the grounds of nuclear power stations.

A Darmstadt court has ruled on compact storage at Biblis nuclear power station, near Mannheim, and a Munich court on the Isar nuclear power station, near the Bavarian capital.

The Darmstadt bench has given the go-ahead for compact storage for two years only, whereas the Munich court has agreed to compact storage for a longer period.

Bonn is convinced a nuclear waste reprocessing plant can be built swiftly even though the Hesse state government has ruled against one proposed location. Hesse, the report says, reckons it will have reached a decision on a shortlist of locations by summer next year.

Planning permission to build the first stage of a reprocessing plant is expected to be given by 1985.

Bavaria, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Lower Saxony are said also to be preparing to provide a site for the facility.

The Gorleben salt deposits are felt to be suitable for permanent storage of radioactive waste. Their suitability can be expected to be confirmed as prospecting continues, Bonn claims.

Findings so far do not necessitate drilling in alternative locations, it is said.

Carl-Josef Kutzbach (Die Zeit, 16 October 1981)



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Nuclear fuel
'no hazard'

An administrative court in Stade has temporarily banned construction of the Gorleben intermediate storage facility, but the Bonn government does not feel this ban jeopardises nuclear waste disposal in any way.

"If need be," the report says, "the reasons for the ban given by the Stade court could be taken into account in such a way as to ensure that the facility is still available for waste disposal."

Bonn says intermediate storage of spent fuel rods can be safely continued for some time. It bases this view on a conclusion reached by the Reactor Safety Commission two years ago.

The commission's experts said there were no safety objections to the intermediate storage of spent fuel rods in drums "for at least 30 years."

By the end of 1984 the government is to invest DM60m in testing packaging methods to find out which is most suitable. Permanent storage, rather than reprocessing, might, for instance, be the best bet safelywise.

The report also comments on the

various court rulings on compact storage of spent fuel rods in the grounds of nuclear power stations.

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Findings so far do not necessitate drilling in alternative locations, it is said.

Carl-Josef Kutzbach (Die Zeit, 16 October 1981)

Toxic trash

The contents of domestic dustbins are growing deadlier, the Bonn Interior Ministry says in a written reply to a Bundestag question tabled by the CDU/CSU Opposition.

One reason is the increasing amount of chemicals and old paint left over from do-it-yourself work and gardening.

Old medicine, flat batteries and cleaning agents also increase the amount of toxic substances in German dustbins, Bonn says.

The Ministry points out that some harmful substances are collected separately. They include old oil and spent batteries.

Car tyres are usually taken in exchange by dealers, garages or filling stations, while old and unwanted medicine can in many areas be turned in to pharmacists or charitable associations.

The Ministry is to redouble its efforts to recycle waste and to reduce the amount of packaging that gets thrown away. Amendments to the Waste Disposal Act are to be tabled during the life of the current Bundestag.

dpa (Der Tagesspiegel, 21 October 1981)

Sewage farm to heat town hall

Arthur Schultheiss, head of Waiblingen, Württemberg, civil engineering department, had his bright idea at the local sewage farm one fine winter's day.

What a pity, he thought as he watched sludge in the septic tanks steaming away in the chilly winter air, that all that heat is allowed to go to waste!

Experts were called in, readings taken and plans drawn up. The public works committee recommended the council to go ahead with the scheme.

So from the year after next Waiblingen will be heating public buildings with process heat recycled from the municipal sewage works.

The idea is simplicity itself in principle. The town's sewage has a temperature of between 9 and 20 degrees centigrade. It is heated to 65 degrees by heat pump and then piped to public buildings 1.8km, just over a mile, away.

Herr Schultheiss and his staff have set about perfecting the system, starting with the heat pump, which is powered by methane from the sewage.

At the flick of a switch it can be converted to natural gas too, however, while the methane is also used to heat water to 90 degrees.

This is the water that is pumped to the civic buildings and their central heating units.

Money could also be saved in the way in which the heating was laid out, the Waiblingen brains trust decided. The heat is to be piped first to buildings that need heating at higher temperatures.

The heat that is still left in the pipes will then usually be enough to head neighbouring buildings that can make do with lower temperatures.

The first buildings to be heated from the municipal sewage will be the town hall, the civic centre and the public baths.

They are to be followed by the fire station, a school, the district hospital and a nearby housing estate.

The length of the piping is a major factor determining how economic the system will be. In Waiblingen everything is so central that heat loss should not amount to more than five degrees or so. The Baden-Württemberg Economic Affairs Ministry in Stuttgart is so keen on the idea that it is ready to subsidise the Waiblingen scheme as a pilot project.

That would cut investment costs to the town from DM8m to DM6m, but even without subsidies Herr Schultheiss says the installation would recoup costs within eight years.

From then it would operate at a profit and, given an estimated lifespan of 25 years for the heat pump, Waiblingen should net DM50m or more, depending on energy price trends.

Carl-Josef Kutzbach (Die Zeit, 16 October 1981)

■ BOOKS

Frankfurt fare

Fortune-telling has always boomed when times were hard and prospects uncertain, and there has been plenty of it at this year's Frankfurt book fair.

There were roughly 84,000 new titles at Frankfurt this year, so it looks as though the boom of the past few years is continuing in tune with a growing demand for books all over the world.

Yet more and more forecasts would have us believe that hard times lie ahead for publishers and booksellers.

More than 50,000 new titles a year are published in the Federal Republic of Germany.

But rumour would have it that quality has steadily deteriorated. In a nutshell, the complaint is that although there are plenty of books published there doesn't seem to be much worth reading.

Is this right? The Suhrkamp Verlag in Frankfurt, just one of the country's 1,400 or so publishers, this autumn has 5,000 pages of new fiction on its list.

This figure does not include previously unpublished minor work such as the letters of Brecht or Broch.

Nothing much worth reading? Can anyone seriously claim to have read even a third of Suhrkamp's autumn output yet, let alone that of Suhrkamp's major competitors?

No, no-one can claim anything of the kind, and since literary judgements are strictly subjective, no-one can possibly have others do the reading for him.

Oddly enough, the sheer number of titles available prompts commentators to dismiss tonnes of paper in two or three headings.

This is very much in keeping with the spirit of the age in which we live. The world grows more complex from one day to the next, yet more and more people console themselves with increasingly broad generalisations.

Much ado about nothing is a comment regularly heard at the book fair. Another evergreen is accompanied by a gesture of assumed dismay.

There are so many average or mediocre titles on offer, it is suggested, that good books hardly ever get a look in.

Yet to cut down the number of titles published would by no means ensure that the loss in quantity was offset by a gain in quality.

Besides, the output may sound impressive, but impressions can be deceptive. In specific subjects specialists are more likely to complain about gaps in the coverage provided.

Last year there were 54,572 new titles published in the Federal Republic, not including paperbacks. Of these 9,972, or 18.5 per cent, were fiction.

But fiction includes both Johannes Mario Simmel, a writer of middlebrow bestsellers, and Peter Handke, an altogether more ambitious and serious author.

Most of the fiction titles are strictly for entertainment. Few aim uncompromisingly at enriching the language, at reaching fresh heights of narrative achievement or at engaging in critical reflection.

Pegasus, the symbol of poetry, is on thin ice these days. Klopfer & Witsch, the Cologne publishers, have published not a single book of poetry this autumn.

This comes as a surprise because they

are ambitious in their literary programme, highly successful and held in high repute.

The glut of translations is deceptive too. Their number has more than doubled since 1962 but there are still many spots marked in white on the map.

Latin America, an enormous continent of fantasy and poetry, was poorly represented in German translation until the Frankfurt book fair concentrated on it as a main topic five years ago.

The situation has since improved, but German readers can only really be conversant with a handful of big-name authors from South America.

The writers they may have read in translation will be Borges from Argentina, Garcia Marquez from Colombia and Vargas Llosa from Peru.

That is as though Latin American readers had only translations of Heinrich Böll and Günter Grass by which to judge contemporary German literature.

Pessimists may say that is better than nothing, but it could hardly be described as a glut. What, for that matter, has happened to black African literature, highlighted at last year's book fair?

Publishers may have been keen to publish African writers last year, but their enthusiasm has not been sustained.

What, to take other examples, about Chinese literature, or Indian, Finnish, Hungarian or Italian writing?

In 1977, when the grand old man of Spanish poetry, Vicente Aleixandre, was awarded the Nobel prize for literature, not a single line of his poetry was available on the allegedly so plentiful German book market.

The situation was just as bad in 1979 when the Nobel prize went to Odysseas Elytis, the Greek writer.

Many a major author only sees the light of day in German translation when the Nobel prize committee decides to give him its accolade.

To make matters worse, public opinion, instead of being ashamed of its own ignorance, regularly turns up its nose at the idea of the Nobel prize being awarded to some weird and outlandish author or other.

This year the roles have been reversed. The 1981 Nobel laureate, Elias Canetti, writes in German. The award has been greeted outside the German-speaking world with a measure of embarrassment indicating that this ignorance is by no means limited to Germany.

Another point that must be scored against publishers is that they allow writers to go out of print merely because they are no longer the height of fashion.

They include many deserving authors who are not privileged to enjoy a reputation as modern classics in the way that Thomas Mann or Bertolt Brecht do.

Panait Istrati, the best-known modern Rumanian writer, was translated into German in the late 20s. Today he is out of print even though his tales are more colourful, more compelling and certainly more amusing than many a highly-praised modern author.

Eugen Gottlob Winkler was a superb pre-war essayist and short-story writer. He committed suicide in 1936. Not a line of his is still in print either.

Undoubtedly there are sound economic and marketing excuses, but both publishers' representatives and commentators really ought to stop talking about there being too many books in print.

Regardless whether they sound a warning note or are distressed by the phenomenon the truth of the matter is not that there are too many books in print; there are still far too few.

Matthias Schreiber
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 October 1981)

Recognition comes late for Nobel winner Canetti

Elias Canetti, the Bulgarian-born writer who lives in London and Zurich, is this year's Nobel literature laureate.

The Swedish academy awarded him the prize, worth 1m kronor (about DM400,000), "for writings marked by a broad outlook, a wealth of ideas and artistic power."

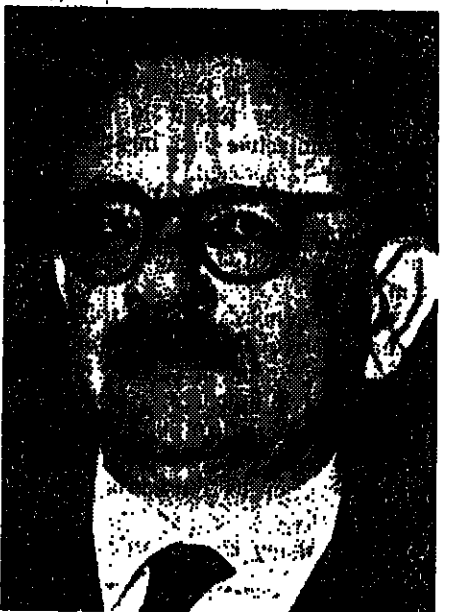
His native language was Spanish. He moved with his family to England when he was six. After his father died young, his mother moved to Vienna. Canetti writes in his third language, German.

"The exiled and cosmopolitan writer," the citation says, "has the German language for a home. He has remained faithful to it and often shown his love of the masterpieces of classic German culture."

"He has, for instance, urgently emphasised what Goethe means to him as a 'medicine of the mind'."

It said his novel *Die Blendung* (Auto Da Fe), 1935, was his most important work of fiction. Canetti will be given the Nobel Prize in Stockholm on 10 December. He is 76.

It is difficult for anyone who has



Elias Canetti... 'medicine of the mind' (Photo: Interpress/Hanser Verlag)

heard Canetti reading to appreciate that he is one of the most serious German-language writers of the century and an inexorable thinker.

He is short and stocky, sports a moustache and bright eyes, speaks vividly and in unmistakable Viennese.

He is like a one-man entertainer switching from one part to the next, in one of his plays. He seems more like a humorist, but one who is very, very intelligent.

Yet he is a writer who has been compared with Robert Musil and Alfred Döblin, Hermann Broch and Thomas Mann. He must be gratified to have finally been given recognition.

It has come late in life, a life in which he has cultivated a strict mental outlook in years of exile and out of the limelight.

He has been able to establish his telling questions and refusal to conform as a position that is now widely visible. His writings are held together by what the citation calls a most original and vigorously-profiled personality.

It is an achievement that has been wrested from a life beset by many obstacles. Becoming a German writer can certainly not have been easy.

He was born on 28 July 1905 in a

small town on the Danube in Bulgaria. His parents were Spanish Jews. The family moved to Manchester, England, in 1911 but his father died and they moved to Vienna.

There he learnt German and went to school. He passed his Abitur, or university entrance exam, in Frankfurt/Main and read natural science in Vienna.

After his PhD he lived as an émigré and writer, having planned in 1925 to write a work about the mass phenomenon.

He did not publish his analysis of the mass psychology of our violent times until 1960. *Masse und Macht* (Crowds and Power).

The intellectual atmosphere in Vienna in the 20s was very much to his liking. He detested what he felt was genuine but operative in, say, Franz Kafka.

The satirist Karl Kraus, on the other hand, who was strictly opposed to literary Vienna of his age, became one of Canetti's most admired and respected models.

But Canetti feels the counter-influences, not the influences, to have been more important for his work. Brecht was, perhaps inevitably, one of his counter-influences.

He came to know Brecht while working as a translator for the Malik Verlag in Berlin in 1929. Brecht was marvellous in his attitude towards all class values. This Canetti, a moralist, admired.

He started work on *Die Blendung* best rendered as *The Blinding* or *Deception*, in 1930. It is the tale of a Sinologist who lives in a world of books.

He is only confronted with reality when he is married to a housekeeper (a marriage which she insists) is a confrontation that leads to grotesque episodes which finally make him lose all links with his surroundings.

It is a lengthy study of an intellectual who loses touch with the world outside his own mind. It was published in Vienna in 1935 and given good notices but failed to gain the recognition it deserved.

He also wrote plays, *Hochzeit* (The Wedding), 1932, and *Komödie der Eitelkeit* (Comedy of Vanity), 1934, but these were not staged until after the war.

He emigrated via Paris to London in 1938, when Hitler marched into Austria. He has lived in London ever since.

There he concentrated on his study of the masses, an issue that occupied him for 30 years. He started writing *Masse und Macht* in 1948.

It was published in two volumes in 1960 and 1962 and immediately acclaimed. He deals with crowds and power from the anthropological, ethnological, psychological and mythological point.

After *Masse und Macht* his main work of fiction, *Die Blendung*, was reissued in Germany. It had long been hailed in English and French.

Die Blendung was reprinted in many in 1963. His plays were published in 1965 the first volume of his (unfinished) autobiography appeared.

He had, started making his own notes before and during the war, his sole accompaniment to his writing work. During this period he felt like a writer.

William P. G. (Mannheimer Morgen, 18 October 1981)

THE CINEMA

Life in the embattled streets of Beirut

Die Allgemeine

of the location work on Volker Schlöndorff's latest film *Die Fälschung* (German title: *The Forgery*).

In the novel by Nicolas Born, the like copy filed by a war correspondent.

film was shot last winter in the mass psychology of our violent times. Schlöndorff won an Oscar for his version of the Günter Grass novel *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin Drum).

new film was shot while fighting in Bab Endriss, the former centre of the Lebanese capital, the background of the charred Grand Hotel, burning cars and streets littered with rubble.

filmakers, in an astonishing amateur diplomacy, had come to both sides in the Lebanese civil war, the Christian militia and the Muslims.

was filmed in the breaks between fighting, yet stray bullets still occurred, whistled around the filmmakers.

left without a single casualty, Lebanese civil war could then

to suit his readers' tastes. He falls in

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AUSTRALIEN

■ MEDICINE

Cooling the heat of the night before
with a pill the morning after

Four contraceptive pills, taken the morning after intercourse, are enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. That is all the morning-after pill is.

It and other morning-after methods are relatively uncommon in Germany, but gaining in popularity.

They are particularly useful in what Knut Hoffmann, a Lengerich gynaecologist, calls emergency or first-aid situations.

Dr Hoffmann works for Pro Familia, the family planning association. Its medical committee has tested methods of preventing pregnancy up to five days after intercourse.

Were people better informed on the

possibility and were morning-after contraception available from doctors, family planning centres and hospitals, unwanted pregnancies could be prevented more effectively.

Or so the committee says in a report published for doctors and family planning consultants. There are 200,000 legal abortions a year in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Morning-after methods have been available for about 10 years. They include many that are without question legal and do not constitute abortion, Pro Familia says.

One is to insert a loop, or intra-uterine device, after intercourse.

Mechanical contraception, that is devices such as sheaths, pessaries, sprays, jellies, creams and suppositories, have become more popular.

This may well be because women are tiring of the Pill, although the figures that are available are not conclusive.

Pro Familia reckons, going by a survey conducted in its family planning centres, that the percentage of women taking the Pill in Germany fell from 52.4 in 1977 to 36.4 in 1979.

A survey of women readers last spring by *Brigitte* magazine arrived at a proportion of 42 per cent, but this figure applied only to women in their 20s.

Conservative estimates reckon that about one woman in five in the Federal Republic of Germany takes the contraceptive Pill.

There are several kinds of morning-after pill. The oestrogen pill has been best subjected to medical scrutiny. It consists of five milligrams of ethinylestradiol a day for five days, starting within 48 hours of intercourse.

The dosage varies in accordance with the hormone content of the contraceptive pill used. A five-milligram dose is

either 25 Lynoral, 10 Progynon M 3 mg or 75 Progynon M 0.2 mg.

So the women takes as much oestrogen as she would otherwise take if she were to use the Pill regularly for a year and a half.

The oestrogen morning-after method is 99-per-cent safe but can be accompanied by side-effects such as sickness, vomiting or disturbance of the menstrual cycle.

The hormone intake is lower when the Pill taken the morning after is one containing gestagen, but the method is only 97-per-cent safe.

It is, however, widely used in South America as an alternative to regular intake of the contraceptive pill.

Within 12 hours of intercourse 20 minipills containing gestagen as a contraceptive hormone are enough to prevent an unwanted pregnancy.

The latest method is to take Pills that combine both hormones, such as Eugynon, Duoluton or Stediril, to use their German trade names.

Two must be taken within 60 hours of intercourse, the other two 12 hours later, and this method is said to be 99-per-cent safe.

Oral contraceptives can be much less effective when taken alongside other medicine, Dr Hoffmann says.

The sex hormones they contain are counteracted by, say, barbiturates, tranquilisers and migraine pain-killers.

Family planners do not advise the morning-after pill as an alternative to conventional contraception, merely as an additional method.

They urgently recommend women to take medical advice before preventing pregnancy in this way.

Klaus Dallibor/dpa

(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 14 October 1981)

When men are
in greater
danger

There are a variety of complaints more likely to affect men than women, a Munich medical congress has been told.

Statistics indicate that older men need more hospital attention than women, whose life expectancy increases proportionately.

Maybe the time has come to set up a branch of medicine dealing with men's complaints in the way that gynaecologists deal with women's.

A variety of medical specialists dealt in Munich with the symptoms, prevention and treatment of men's diseases.

To judge by what they had to say, only two branches of specialised medicine are not predominantly male. They are psychosis and neurosis on the one hand and venereal diseases on the other.

Men are particularly prone to a number of ear, nose and throat complaints, said Professor Karin Schorn of the ear, nose and throat clinic at Munich University Hospital.

Deafness caused by noise, primarily at work, and throat cancer, from which more women have been suffering lately, are frequent among men.

In cancer of the throat there is a clear link with smoking. Nine out of 10 victims are smokers.

Anatomical peculiarities lead to frequent surgery among men, such as for

hernia, said Hans Rinecker, chief surgeon at a Munich hospital.

Men's behaviour patterns, especially alcohol consumption, affected the liver and pancreas accordingly. Men were also more prone to stomach cancer, evidently due to stress at work.

Urologist Erich Elsässer said changes in the prostate gland, up to and including cancer, were only part, and a very small part, of his branch of medicine.

More and more young men, even in puberty, were suffering from complaints of the testicles. Professor Elsässer would not rule out the possibility that tight-fitting jeans were to blame.

Strangulation of the scrotum, which acted as a thermostat for the body, could upset the natural course of events in the entire abdomen.

Strokes and trouble with blood circulation in the brain, which were to blame for one in three fatalities in the Federal Republic of Germany, used to occur mainly among men.

Testicle cancer
is curable

Cancer of the testicles can now be successfully treated even in its early stages when the disease has spread to other parts of the body.

Siegfried Seiber of the tumour department at Essen University Hospital dealt with advances in this sector at the 10th conference of the Haematological and Oncological Association.

Cancer of the testicles is most likely to affect men aged between 15 and 1,500 new cases a year are reported in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It has three stages: tumours of the testicle, tumours of the lymphatic system and subsidiary tumours on the lungs.

In the first case, Dr Seiber said, between 50 and 70 per cent of cases

are cured. In the second, prospects of a cure have improved from 50 to 70 per cent.

In the third, spectacular successes have been reported of late. In two of the three cases all tumours had been eliminated by administering various drugs over a period of four months.

There was now a 50-per-cent hope of a cure for sufferers from cancer of the testicles that had spread to the lymphatic system and lungs.

Professor Wolfgang Wilms of Grosshadern Hospital, Munich, told the conference on improvements in bone marrow transplants on which search staff were working hard in Essen, Tübingen and Ulm.

Marrow transplants, he said, emerged as an acknowledged method of treating cancer patients over the decade.

But strokes were on the increase among women too, said neurologist Gerhard Paul. The risks they ran included nicotine, cholesterol and the Pill.

Men are still in the lead when it comes to degenerative changes in the spinal column and peripheral nerves. Inflammations, the congress was told.

Two people in three, said gastroenterologist Rudolf Ottenjann, daily gastric juice come up the wrong way.

Men suffered most from dyspepsia, presumably because they ate and drank more than women, he said. Women suffered from gastric trouble to a great extent during pregnancy.

Cancer of the colon also seemed to be more widespread among men than among women, although no-one came up with a satisfactory explanation.

Men are 20 times more likely than women to suffer from gout, said Dr Mehnert, a specialist in metabolic diseases.

Gout is a particularly striking case of a complaint that occurs primarily among men, he said. It is linked with affluence. During and immediately after the war it virtually disappeared.

Diabetes, due in part to hereditary factors though it may be, is also linked with affluence. It is closely connected with the good life: too much eating, too much drinking, too many sweets, too much alcohol, too many cigarettes, too much money.

Karl Stankiewicz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 October 1981)

MODERN LIVING

Pitting wits against a
hostile environment

Wimmer, 38, a former Bundeswehr soldier and hand-to-hand combat instructor, offers one-week holidays in the Eifel Mountains for the holidaymakers sleep rough and eat what they can find. To find out just how a holiday can be, Hartmut Schermer of *Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger*, went

to the camp on our last day. He had come from the little town of Rollesbroich a couple of miles from the intention of felling a tree

was clearly startled at the sight of himself: eight primitive men with a couch of ferns. The group around a campfire was some strange, unshaven people, dressed up like polar researchers, sought

black brew, ersatz coffee made of instant coffee and water. The little over the fire contained a pot of concocion: boiled nettles, socks drying round the fire

of nuts," muttered the man who was watching the scene, shaking his head.

Every change was welcome in the forest. We latched on to him there until he was hungry, dirty, wet and ill-humoured. "We're vacationing," we told him. "We're vacationing," we told him. "We're vacationing," we told him.

My bed turned out much too short and the roof of the hut was airy, to say the least, with the stars shining through. All I needed now was a downpour. It would have been like sleeping in a shower.

I decided to take another look around. Only 100 yards or so away I found a hikers' rest hut. Somebody had scribbled on it with chalk: "Home, Sweet Home". It must have been somebody from one of the previous junkies.

The first night was like all the others. Nobody managed to sleep for more than three or four hours. The beds were too uncomfortable and damp and the night too cold.

We were on our feet 12 hours every day but never managed to gather more in the way of food than the bare minimum. Our group was one of the more

people who lived through the World War shake their heads, and to themselves: "They must be trained for survival in a time of hardship and adventure, of hunger, desert and danger."

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sedentary ones. Most of the time was spent gathering wood for the campfire that was kept going all day.

Drinking water had to be found and we had to find something that could be brewed to make tea: a mixture of raspberry and other leaves did the trick.

We spent hours searching for something edible. In the end we settled for nettles and sorrel. Hours later, lunch was ready: Steamed nettles and various roots (I thought I could still see the worms that were clinging to the roots by the dozen when I dug them up) and a type of wild mushroom that was later to become Ulrich the insurance broker's favourite dish.

He spent hours searching for the evil-smelling fungus. Following his nose, he would suddenly dart into a clump of bushes and come out with a handful of the slimy stuff, extolling its culinary virtues — Ulrich, of all people, the gourmet and bon vivant.

It was, over dinner that we had our first dispute when one of the group said: "Actually, it tastes pretty good."

Survival training had a different meaning for each of us. Bernd and Gerd ate everything, leaf for leaf, because "it's part of the adventure."

Jürgen just filled his stomach to stop the hunger pangs, while Ulrich's wife, Ruth, refused to touch anything, saying she would rather go hungry to the end.

And the end is what everybody was anxiously awaiting. ("Only three more sleeps before we can go home.") Jürgen, the carpenter, had but one dream night after night: food.

When a worried Ruth asked: "What am I to do if a deer sneaks into my hut?" the answer shot out like a bullet: "Hold onto it! For God's sake, hold onto it!"

Wimmer took great trouble to make us perfect survival artists. He taught us to read a map, handle a compass and tie the most useful knots. He also showed us how to tie a rope between two trees and then cross over a river hand over hand.

We even had to build a raft on the shores of the Rursee although only 100 yards away there were excursion steamers plying back and forth.

Bread baking was another thing we learned. We used feed grain that we stamped in a self-made mortar. It took a whole day for the stones to become hot enough to bake the flat, unleavened loaf. It tasted horrible; but still better than the boiled leaves.

Wimmer told us that he had sometimes tried to take along a live animal

As we sat around the fire, we could hear the church clock in the nearby hamlet strike the hours; and when the wind was right the smell of food would waft over.

We could have learned a great deal if only we had not been so exhausted. Wimmer pigeonholed nature in the simple categories of "edible", "inedible" and "poisonous".

He showed us a stream from which we could drink unconcernedly (what he did not tell us was that he had had the water analysed by the city laboratories of Aachen, just to be on the safe side).

He told us how to eat grasshoppers and other insects or worms, cautioning us to remove the fine hairs from caterpillars. Insects with a carapace, he said, should be simmered for a short while. Among the other recommended edibles were rainworms, ants, frogs, hedgehogs and snails.

Gerd and Bernd were the only ones to try everything. They gathered rainworms,

Continued on page 14



Survival training: learning the ropes

(Photo: dpa)

such as a rabbit or a chicken. But civilisation had made the people so squeamish that they could not bring themselves to slaughter the animals, let alone drink the warm blood. Instead, they treated them like mascots.

All would have been easier if it had not been for the constant rain that turned the soil into a quagmire and seeped through shoes and clothing, making for a general mood of depression.

As it was, we crept along in our wet clothes, dispirited and our energy sapped. By the end of the week we had all lost about four kilos.

As we sat around the fire, we could hear the church clock in the nearby hamlet strike the hours; and when the wind was right the smell of food would waft over.

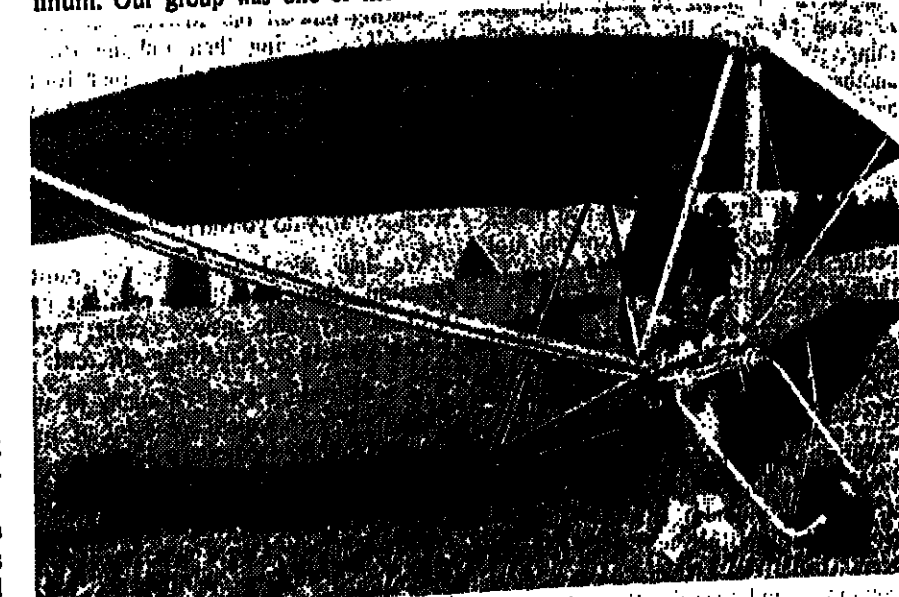
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Continued on page 14



Fly Firebird

It's flying with a difference at the controls of the Firebird M-1 motorised hang glider designed and built by Fritz Schwegler and Eberhard Jehle from Seep, near Munich. It is a 70kg (154 lb) lightweight with a 28hp engine and 20-litre tank that keeps it in the air for up to three hours. The Firebird has a top speed of 80km/h (50mph), can be assembled or stripped down in 15 minutes and transported by car.

(Photo: dpa)

■ SOCIETY

Doctors criticised for attitude towards parents of disabled children

Parents need more psychological care than disabled children when the problem is first realised, a seminar has been told.

Doctors and therapists should show more understanding for the parents, said Udo Schlitt, a member of the welfare organisation that organised the conference, *Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband*.

Parents often thought they knew more about their own children than the experts, and this led to conflict.

Parents should accept the "logic of expertise" and the experts, who were guided by what was measurable and possible, should have more regard for parents' "logic of the heart".

Other points included:

- Many doctors did not know what facilities were available for disabled children.

- Children should not be put in institutions unless the parents had access and a say in treatment.

- The way some central institutions operated caused parental dissatisfaction with professional help.



Delegates heard the mother of an eight-year-old blind, spastic and mentally retarded boy tell his story as a case history.

The child was premature and was put in an incubator. After three months, he was discharged, apparently healthy apart from a navel rupture.

About three months later, she found that he did not react to colour or movement. He was blind. Nothing could be done.

The mother found out later that too much oxygen in the incubator was probably the cause.

She said all that mattered to the hospital was that the boy had survived in the incubator. Any other problems were hers.

She was told to keep in close physical contact with the child and buy it special toys.

For the next four years, she watched

him round the clock and, once a week, took him to a special centre for the disabled.

Then she found out that he was spastic. Physiotherapy was tried without success.

On top of that, it emerged that he was mentally handicapped.

The mother was advised to have another child.

Delegates to the seminar — about 80 psychologists, social workers and parents of disabled children — agreed that this was a typical case.

Doctors were urged, despite their lack of time, to show more consideration for parents.

Herr Schlitt said that if they did, parents would be more likely to accept therapies.

The meeting agreed that women must find the right obstetrician. It was also important that paediatricians fill in gaps in their knowledge.

A psychologist, Mathias Zeschitz, blamed the way some institutions operated.

Parents reacted with guilty feelings

when they realised that therapists in centres thought of their children as "creatures".

Feelings of helplessness were expressed when parents were sent off with advice on special programmes, toys, physiotherapy, and then told to wait for a patient.

The result was that they tended to make the best of it by "practising" with the child at home.

Another topic was whether institutions for the disabled helped harmony.

Access to institutionalised child is essential

Delegates agreed that putting a child in an institution was not "stunning".

But they also agreed that it should not be done unless parents had access to the home and a say in how the child was treated.

Herr Schlitt said children should be put in institutions for only a few days at a time, primarily to give parents relief.

Early therapy must begin with parents, delegates were told.

It was the parents more than children who needed more psychological care at that stage.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 October 1981)

Beirut streets

Continued from page 11

film version of a novel that supplies none of the answers to the telling questions posed by the level-headed novelist.

How, Bom asks, is a man to come to terms with the gap between facts and the reports he files, between words and reality?

He describes how a man gradually comes apart when his job is merely to press the market value out of human misery and suffering.

He shows how his reporter despairs of himself and finally fails because he is no longer able to file copy fresh from where the news is happening.

He is no longer able to conserve and effectively present the news in a way that constitutes a forgery or falsehood, reality perhaps, but in counterfeit currency.

In the film version nothing gets out of hand and everything is presented in carefully arranged settings that insistently proclaim background authenticity.

But it is wildly poetic horror that at times is most impressive, spectacular and effective.

We are shown Beirut burning, screened exclusively for cinema-goers all over the world. Some may find it exciting. Others may find it disgusting to be made tourists and voyeurs in one of the world's worst hotspots.

We must admire the cast and crew for the risks they ran. We must admire Schlöndorff for his diplomacy in coming to terms with the warring factions in Beirut.

Die Fälschung is a superb display of pyrotechnics but less successful as a film. The best that can be said is that there were no casualties.

Uta Gote

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 October 1981)

Continued from page 13

boiled them and then skewered them onto twigs for grilling over the fire.

But before swallowing their fare, they wanted a snapshot taken of it.

Having eaten their rainworms, one of the two said it tasted like squid while the other found it more reminiscent of meat.

Our group gave Wimmer a hard time and forced him to compromise all along the line.

We disputed the contention in his brochure that one pair of pants was enough to survive with in this frightful weather, and the same went for one pair of shoes. We were adamant that three pairs of pants would have been just right.

We also failed our test of courage on the last night when we were supposed to sleep alone in the forest. For one thing, we were too frightened and, for another, nobody wanted to start all over again building a hut.

The other groups must have been real he-men who did not even use matches to start their fires but rubbed two pieces of wood together. They also did not bother to build huts but simply slept in their sleeping bags.

Even so, come evening we sat around the fire relatively contentedly because we had at least managed to fill our bellies.

Jürgen would tell us about his adventures with Indians and South Sea Islanders. He would also tell us about his survival package that he himself had put together and that included basic surgical equipment and special matches that will light in the worst of storms. He also told us of a book we should read ("Living Like Robinson — 1,000 Tips for Adventurers").

We all made a note of the book so

Pitting wits

that we could relive our tough experience in an easy chair.

Wimmer has been practising survival training for the past eight years. The first five years in Belgium and, for the past three years, in the Eifel Mountains.

But before he could start his business in Germany he had to conquer bureaucracy, filing innumerable applications and collecting just as many rejections from various municipalities.

The reasons for the rejections were always the same: apprehension about "the unusual clothing and conduct" of his adventure groups and concern over "the soiling of our forests as a result of heeding the call of nature several times a day."

During one of our marches we met two hikers. Seeing their bulging rucksacks, we were close to asking them for a few sandwiches. We told them that we were practising survival and hadn't eaten for several days.

The question they asked us was reasonable: "Why do you do it?"

We had asked ourselves the same question, though without coming up with an acceptable answer, except: "We simply want to do something different."

The motivating force for many of us was probably to experience a bit of romanticism and adventure.

What really mattered, however, was the person-to-person relations that inevitably developed in such a group. It was exactly this that all participants were after. Here there was total equality and we all had to cope with the same conditions. So we sat around the fire, told jokes and belched.

Wimmer knows a great deal about his customers and what makes them tick.

His clients are primarily desk people in the upper income brackets who sums up as civil servants, managers, teachers, university professors, hoteliers, businessmen.

"You'll be hard put to find a man who does physical work for his money," he said.

Business is brisk for 16 weeks in a year.

While Wimmer is out in the field, his wife and daughter take care of office work.

The tax department has tried to classify him as a travel agent, but he has not been classified as a "free-lance activity teacher."

Business has been developing steadily and Wimmer now has an entire new group of customers. Companies have started sending him their managerial staff and applicants for echelon jobs. Though they still accept for a relatively small proportion of clients, he has written to some German companies, ten per cent of whom have accepted.

He has meanwhile started special courses for industry. These courses are much tougher than the regular ones cause heads of personnel want an assessment of job applicants as members.

These people are not allowed to huts but must sleep in sleeping bags and frequently have to make it on their own without group support.

His reports contain evaluations of physical fitness of the participants, group attitudes and personal habits, "willing," "swearing."

The business clearly has a future. Even the Bundeswehr has started conducting survival courses to protect nuclear attack or a major accident at a nuclear power plant.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 October 1981)

First Europe, now the world for junior soccer conquerors

Abendblatt

Cricket Ground, normally a scene of cricket test matches, was turned into a soccer stadium for the West Germany's soccer junior championship.

An unexpected win for the thirteen players cried off and that flew to Australia was a team. Trainer Dietrich Weise led against sending out a team at

13 boys trooped jubilantly in the rain, which obviously helped the Persian Gulf side, to win the trophy from FIFA prelate Havelange of Brazil.

They won the European championship four months ago and fancied to do well against the Australian team.

They could well have won a set for fair play had they not worn their white jerseys for the red opponents in the final.

The international federation of soccer associations, frowns on this and penalised the German team, when runner-up to hosts Australia played.

It did not dismay the squad in rain-soaked hair and faces by disbelief. They could hardly have won the world title.

They could team officials. "If you had told me before we flew from Germany we were going to win the world championship crown," said team manager Egidius Braun, "I would have said you were mad."

But now Herr Braun, who is treasurer of the Frankfurt-based Deutscher Fußball-Bund, or West German FA, was over the moon.

So was trainer Weise, a quiet man not given to exaggeration. "I am naturally overjoyed," he said, "mainly because I never for a minute imagined we were going to pull it off."

Yet his players were warned only three times in six games and, but for the penalty for swapping jerseys, would have come home with two cups.

Weise had learnt from experience that a team had to be built up in next to no time. He had to work with a makeshift squad in the European championship tournament and this time no fewer than 13 players had cried off before Australia.

But he was not complaining. "I relied on the same approach as in the European championships," he said. "For hours I discussed matters with the players, trying to influence them in preparation for the game."

On the day the weather was undeniably on their side. Their Persian Gulf opponents, Qatar, had hoped against hope the hot weather forecast by meteorologists would materialise.

But it rained cats and dogs, a situation in which the German boys felt more at home than the Middle East giant-killers.

"My team coped much better with the rain-soaked pitch," said Weise. Team

captain Ralf Loose of Borussia Dortmund felt the final had been the easiest of their six games in Australia. They prepared thoroughly for the final. Qatar had beaten Poland, Uruguay, Brazil and England, so they were obviously a force to be reckoned with, although until then an outsider. Trainer Weise pored over video cassettes and tapes of TV coverage of the Qataris' games to make sure of the tactics his team were to adopt.

His squad carried out his instructions to the finest detail. "They simply did everything right," he said. Loose netted penalties in the 28th and 67th minutes.

Roland Wohlfarth of Duisburg scored in the 43rd and Holger Anthes of Frankfurt in the 86th to make it 4-0 (2-0).

They and Zorc, the Dortmund sweeper, were the best players. "In terms of goal opportunities we could just as well have won 8-0," said the trainer. He is now a world championship winner against his better judgement, as it were, having advised against flying to Australia because the squad would not have time to train for the tournament.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 October 1981)

Women's gymnastic team vaults a Hungarian horse

In Vöhringen, near Ulm, the women's gymnastics team beat Hungary by a margin of less than half a point. But it was the first time the women had ever beaten the Hungarians.

When West Germany last played the East Bloc aces in Győr, Hungary, in 1979 the hosts won by a respectable 12.75 points.

So it was little short of sensational for the German girls to have scored 371.35 to the Hungarians' 370.925 points in Vöhringen and won by 0.425 points.

The Hungarian squad is being rebuilt, but then so is the German team. The Hungarians are unlikely, on current form, to succeed in defending their seventh place in the Fort Worth, Texas, world championships.

In Vöhringen the visitors had only two team members with international experience: Erika Flanders, aged 16, who scored 74.775 points to win the individual crown, and Margit Toth, aged 21, who is one of the oldest competitors on the European scene.

She was leading after the set pieces but after a foot injury in the freestyle events retired early.

For the German girls it was their first international competition ever, which makes their victory all the more deserving.

There was no mistaking the work of

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But Weise was adamant: "I still say more preparation is needed for a world championship tournament."

Qatar did surprisingly well in Australia and Egypt beat us in a game that taught us a lesson.

"The leading soccer countries, and that includes us, must further improve their work with juniors."

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 October 1981)



The Sydney Cricket Ground, battleground for cricketers like Don Bradman and Ray Lindwall and Rugby League stars Arthur Beetson and Johnny Raper... Ralf Loose, captain of the triumphant world champion German junior side, holds the cup (Photo: dpa)

It was DFB president Hermann Neubauer who insisted. Herr Neubauer immediately phoned Sydney to congratulate the team and officials.

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... with team-mate Dagmar Brannekämper

(Photo: Horst Müller)